

THE ABERDEEN EXAMINER

The Right: Nor Courting Favor, Nor Fearing Condemnation.

Aberdeen, Mississippi, Friday, January 31, 1890

NO. 44

Excerpt by: R. A. Jarman

The History of Company K, 27th

Mississippi Infantry, and its

First and Last Muster Rolls.

Editors Examiner:

According to promise I herewith inclose a copy of the first and last muster rolls of Company K, 27th Regiment Mississippi Infantry, during the late unpleasantness between the States. Strictly speaking, it was at first known as "Enfield Riflemen", because the company armed and equipped itself with short rifles and sabre bayonets after the Enfield pattern, made by Cook & Bros., New Orleans, La., for which the company paid \$50.00 per gun or \$5,000.00 for one hundred. We were mustered into the service of the Confederate States at Aberdeen, Mississippi, at the old Fair grounds, for one year by Lieutenant J. S. Lanier, on September 27, 1861. We remained in camp at Aberdeen until about November 18th, 1861, when we were ordered to Mobile, Alabama, where we did guard duty until February 12th, 1862, when we were ordered to Pensacola, Florida, to do general picket and guard duty, and to manage some coast batteries between Warrenton navy yard and old Fort Barrancas. While there we had a hand in dismounting and shipping all the heavy guns in batteries at Forts Barrancas and McRae, that were sent from there to Mobile and Vicksburg, also all the heavy machinery out of the navy yard. We also bore a hand in the final destruction of the navy yard by preparing combustibles and placing one or more large loaded shells in every building and getting everything ready for the cavalry to fire when we evacuated on the night of May 12th, 1862.

While we were stationed at the navy yard we had good and comfortable quarters, and every convenience in the way of water, kitchens, etc., but the fleas were our great pest by night and day; but we had fresh fish whenever we wanted them, either by seine or hook and line.

PRIVATES:

Anglin, J. S.
Baker, J. L.
Bishop, John L.
Bishop, W. Ira
Bradford, John D.
Bradford, Henry B.
Brock, Quedellas W.
Bryan, Jasiah E.
Bonner, T. Asbury
Carr, Thomas W.
Carroll, Jessee
Lagrone, George W.
Lewis, John L.
Maxwell, James W.
Montgomery, J. M.
Moore, A. W.
Marshall, James W.
Mayes, Robert L.
Meador, J. M.
Mealer, J. M.
Newshal, Zack
Minnis, Robert A.
McKenney, Thomas B.
McKinney, J. Benjamin
Nash, Edmond D.
Nash, William M.
Peters, John R.
Peters, Richard H.
Powell, Anderson Q.
Puckett, William H.
Puckett, Allen C.
Pullen, Nathan F.
Porter, Theoderic S.
Camp, Oscar F.
Check, James H.
Colley, J. S. L.
Cosby, Drury A.
Cowley, William S.
Cox, Rufus J.
Daughtery, Barnes G.
Dean, William F.

Evans, F. Marion
Fears, James M.
Fortson, William D.
Gibson, Benjamin F.
Gladney, John S.
Grady, John A.
Hall, Wm. Jefferson
Hawkins, Felix G.
Hill, Robert E.
Hollis, William
Henley, William C.
Hendrix, Marion J.
Inman, John J.
Jarman, R. Amos
Jones, Robert C.
Lantrip, F. M.
Lantrip, John B.
Thraikill, James
Townsend, John B.
Thompson, Samuel E.
Truland, John G.
Tubb, Benjamin F.
Thompson, James S.
Ware, Nicholas O.
Watson, P. Marion
Westbrook, William N.
Westbrook, John A.
White, James W.
White, Hunley V.
White, James M.
White, Hiram L.
Whitley, Robert H.
Whatley, Wilson, Jr.
Willis, Daniel W.
Wofford, Robert H.
Wofford, William F.
Savage, ~~Zacariah~~ T.
Savely, James R.
Smith, Julian E.
Smith, James M.
Edge, Hiram C.

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Smith, J. E. H
Thraillkill, James X
Thompson, J. S. P

Whalley, W. Jr. X
Westbrook, W. G. H
White, H. V. H

Gideon, John H

(Editorial Matter)

We publish this morning the first and last muster rolls of Company K, 27th Mississippi Volunteers, and a chapter from the history of that gallant command furnished by its last Orderly Sergeant, Mr. Amos Jarman, of our county. Mr. Jarman will probably continue the narrative to the end, and if so a most acceptable contribution to Mississippi's military record will be supplied, for the story of a company well told is the history of regiment, brigade, division, corps, army, and country.

Friday, February 7, 1890

While the 27th Mississippi regiment was encamped at Mobile in May 1862, for a few days, we did guard duty around the city and over a lot of East Tennessee bridge burners; then we were put to work on the fortifications southwest of the city at and near the old race course, and given our first lesson in earth works. About the first week in June we were moved south of Mobile, near the bay and on the Shell Road just below the first toll gate. Some of the companies were put on batteries out in the bay and others had charge of shore batteries. Company K's battery was near camp and just north of the first toll gate, near Mrs. Smith's (I think). We had a fine time bathing after dark, for we were not permitted to go in during the daytime on account of travel on the Shell Road. Company drill and guard mounting in the morning; battalion drill in the evening at the race course by our then Lieutenant-Colonel Hayes, of the regular army. He had before the war belonged to the United States Marine Corps; he was a fine officer and gentleman and well liked by the regiment. Our Col. Jones was at Department Headquarters at this time and we knew very little of him. While in camp here we had a race in each company at guard mounting every morning to see who would be excused from guard duty for clean gun, for the man with cleanest gun in company detail was excused from duty while the detail was on guard.

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We were engaged in the battle of Perryville, Kentucky, where we burned our first powder at the enemy, and all the novelty of war was seen and the men had all the wire edge taken from them thoroughly, and I think about ten were killed and a number of others wounded. At the time of the battle, our company was the only one in the regiment armed with rifles, the other ten companies were armed with old smooth bored muskets, and as a consequence we had to do all the skirmishing for the regiment, and it put us in all exposed places, and under fire before the regiment was exposed. Some of the killed here were J. A. Crady, George Lagrone, Jim White, S. J. Willoughby, and I cannot remember the others.

February 14, 1890

While upon the subject of the battle of Perryville, I will say that it was here that the 27th Mississippi was first under fire, and nobly did it stand the test. Here it was that Company K did its first skirmishing. While upon the advance movement, Company K arrived at a precipice fully thirty feet high. Capt. Sale halted the company and called back to Col. Hayes that here was a precipice thirty feet high. Col. Hayes responded, "Forward the skirmishers!", which was done, Sale in the midst. When the regiment reached the place Capt. McLemore, of Company B, slipped over the face of the precipice and said, "Company B follow me!" and he was followed by the entire regiment. Here old John, Capt. Sale's servant, was so badly scared that he ran the old gray horse of Capt. Sales back to the wagon train, and when the next day he received a scolding for riding so fast, he said that the horse scared and ran away with him. Here Major Lipscomb was killed and at the time he was the only field officer of the regiment from Mississippi. When the army left the battlefield it was for a retreat from Kentucky, and all our wounded fell into the hands of the Federals except possibly a few only slightly wounded. When the wounded were well enough to bear moving they were carried to Louisville, Kentucky, and put into barracks until they were sent to Vicksburg during the following winter and exchanged.

To prove the devotion of the Negro to the southern cause, I will state that a servant sent by my father with my brother, J. E. Jarman, and myself, remained with my brother who was wounded here though the right shoulder, and brother Edgar said that never was a man more faithful to any one than Isom was to him; washing and attending to him generally, and while in the barracks at Louisville he was not allowed to see him

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except at night, but then he always brought some tempting and appetizing morsel from the garrison officers, although before he had been known to go without his meals all day rather than eat what the boys had picked up in their foraging trips.

The objective point was Knoxville, by way of Crab Orchard, and when the army reached Knoxville the regiment was in a dirty and smoked condition and very tired, and very glad of the few days rest received there and in the neighborhood. There the men enjoyed the luxuries of the fine winter apples that they found in the country while foraging for feed for the teams; and pumpkin pies without shortening in the crust were brought to the camp and sold by the old men and women of the country.

We moved from here to Chattanooga and Bridgeport, Alabama, by cars, and after remaining at Bridgeport a few days, moved to a place near Estell Springs, on Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, by rail. On the trip from Bridgeport the writer and some five or six other men went out to gather walnuts near the east side of the railroad tunnel under Cumberland Mountains, while the engine pulling part of the train pulled out and left them to walk through the tunnel, and I tell you, two men abreast made it so dark in there you could almost feel it. That night we got aboard with the second section of our regiment and rejoined the company just before day.

Our next move was near Shelbyville; from there to Eagleville; from Eagleville to Murfreesboro. On all our marches here we found plenty of walnuts and hickory nuts, for they abounded all through Middle Tennessee. While at Eagleville or Murfreesboro, Lieutenant-Colonel Hayes was relieved from our regiment and Lieutenant-Colonel Autery, of Vicksburg or Natchez, was assigned to duty with us.

About the time we left Knoxville, or soon after, Capt. Sales of Company K was promoted to the rank of Colonel of cavalry and detailed as Judge Advocate at Army headquarters, and Lieutenant W. H. Saunders promoted to Captain. At the time of the battle of Murfreesboro we again lost heavily as we were again the only company to do skirmishing, although another company relieved us at night. We were at the front all day for three days before the battle, and in a thicket to the right of the turnpike that was so thick with vines and undergrowth we could scarcely walk through it. After the battle one could run through it and not stumble, so raked was it by the enemy's cannons.

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Here at Murfreesboro, Cosby, Hollis and Jri B. Townsend were among the killed of the Company, and Henry Bradford among the wounded. (I do not now remember all of those wounded or killed.) Bradford's wound was from a canister shot across the bridge of the nose between the eyes, and I tell you, he came near losing the sight of both eyes from it. The same shot killed Hollis. Cosby was shot in two by a shell; all of this in the thicket above mentioned.

On the day of the battle, December 31, 1862, the Brigade made two advances; the first time they were repulsed and driven back, but on the next advance the line was so perfect it looked more like a dress parade than a line of battle, and it carried everything before it that time in their charge upon the Federal battery about five or six hundred yards distant and through a field to a cedar glade to where the battery was stationed. You can be assured that they did effective work when I say in a plumb orchard of half an acre in extent just in front of the Federal battery you could almost traverse the whole field on the bodies of the dead and wounded Yankees.

Here the regiment lost Lieutenant-Colonel Autery, who had so lately come to us, and many of its best company officers and quite heavily of the rank and file. As soon as it was known that Lieutenant-Colonel Autery was dead, the regiment almost to a man petitioned Gen. Bragg to again send us Col. Hayes, who remained in command until in the Spring, when field officers were chosen from the company officers of regiments.

We were in the whole fight at Murfreesboro during the week, and in the retrograde movement with the army back to Shelbyville, and where the army finally went into winter quarters late in January 1863.

About this time we lose sight of our first Col. Jones, for some cause I cannot now recall, and I never heard of him again.

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After the army fell back from Murfreesboro and was established in winter quarters, near Shelbyville, the field and staff of the 27th Mississippi regiment was re-organized by making Capt. Cambell, of Company E, Colonel; Capt. Jones, of Company C, Lieutenant-Colonel; and Capt. McLemore, of Company B, Major. Lieutenant Saunders, of Company K, became our captain. Lieutenant A. V. Snowden, First Lieutenant, Mr. W. A. McMillan, Second Lieutenant. During the winter Mr. McMillan had been detailed and sent home after clothing for the company that had the previous spring been shipped back home to Aberdeen, and I can assure you, the writer and whole company enjoyed getting their overcoats and good underwear after the exposure around Murfreesboro.

On the march from Murfreesboro it was amusing to see the different men in the Company gathering sage out of gardens along the road, so they could enjoy the luxury of a cup of sage tea at night. Just imagine to yourself a whole company drinking sage tea at once. Grand enjoyment!

While camped at or near Shelbyville I do not now recollect what we did, except drill, unless it was to guard some of the many still houses near there to keep the men from getting as we then called it "pine top whisky", but since then it has been given the name of "mountain dew".

While the army was near Shelbyville, and I was at home on sick furlough, the brigade was sent to Lewisburg, Tennessee, about 20 miles from the main army to do outpost picket duty, but some of the men claimed when I got back it was only a furlough the whole of Watlhall's brigade and give them a chance to get butter milk. You can imagine that they had a good time when I say after a lapse of 27 years some who are now grandfathers laugh heartily at how the brigade and regimental staff officers and all others who got horses to ride, enjoyed an old fashioned gander pulling before the fair ladies of Lewisburg and surrounding country. The command also had nearly every day, chicken fighting, for be it known that there were plenty of game chickens around Lewisburg at first, but deponent saith not how many were there when the command left to again rejoin the army at Shelbyville.

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I rejoined my company there in June 1863, time enough to be on the retreat from Middle Tennessee. I was detailed with others during that trip and sent to Decatur on the Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad, to do guard duty, and while there I first remember seeing Gen. N. B. Forrest. We remained here until the last train was leaving, when we turned over our position to cavalry and started to rejoin our command at the foot of Cumberland Mountains, and helped that night and part of next day to push up the wagon train that was crossing the mountains with us. While on this trip we enjoyed the green apples of the country nearly as well as we did the ripe apples of the winter before. Rations ran short on this trip with us, and when flour was issued to us we made it up on our oil cloths, and some baked it on flat rocks, and some rolled it around their ramrods and baked that way, for our wagons with cooking utensils were not near us!

Before we arrived at the Tennessee River, there was a detail sent that brought back to us cooked provisions for one day. We crossed the river above Bridgeport, Alabama, and below Chattanooga, on a pontoon bridge. Then we traveled near the railroad, but on the dirt road from there to Chattanooga, and when we got there we were a muddy, dirty set, for it had rained on us for nearly a week, and we had to wade all the branches and creeks as we came to them; and fortunately for myself I was nearly the only man in the Company that could that night put on an entire clean suit of clothes. I was just from home and had in addition to my own suit, also one for my brother, but he had gone home on wounded furlough and I had a double supply. Nearly the first thing that greeted us after we got in camp at Chattanooga was a veritable peanut stand. Some man in the Company had managed through the teamsters of wagon trains to get a couple of sacks of gouber peas, and almost as soon as camp was formed, they were offering gouber peas for sale; and as the command had had nothing of the kind for several days, it took one man nearly all his time to serve them out and make the necessary change, and the whole lot was soon sold, but next day and during the time we were there the gouber peas were plentiful in camp. Next day as soon as the men had time to forage around, it was discovered that there was a market garden near us with some three acres or more of long stem blue collards; but they were greens, and the brigade was "hankering" for something of the kind, and it was not very long before we dug up the entire patch; for be it not said that a soldier would eat almost anything in season or out of season.